

Applicant: Shahrier et al.
Application No.: 10/078,946

REMARKS

This amendment is filed to consolidate the claims of two parent applications into this application which currently has claims generic to both prior applications. A Request for Express Abandonment is being filed concurrently under separate cover for the prior application, namely Application Nos. 09/997,922 and 10/026,060.

By this amendment new claims 3-15 have been added. As a result, the currently pending claims correspond to the claims of International Application No. PCT/US02/04372 as follows:

| Current Claims | PCT Claims |
|----------------|------------|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3-15 | 2-14 |

A copy of the favorable International Preliminary Examination Report regarding the PCT application was previously submitted in a Communication dated July 17, 2003.

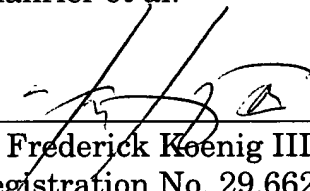
Applicant: Shahrier et al.
Application No.: 10/078,946

Early consideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahrier et al.

By


C. Frederick Koenig III
Registration No. 29,662
(215) 568-6400

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

CFK/rw